

Remarks

The Office Action constitutes a requirement for restriction between (I) claims 1-8 and 15, and (II) claims 9-14. In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect the subject matter of Group I, i.e. claims 1-8 and 15.

Applicants emphasize that this election is made while reserving their rights under 35 U.S.C. §121 to file a divisional application for the non-elected subject matter of claims 9-14.

Referring to the Examiner's comments concerning rejoinder in item 6 beginning on page 4 of the Office Action, each of non-elected claims process claims 9 and 13 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, upon allowance of claim 1, it is expected that all of the process claims will be rejoined.

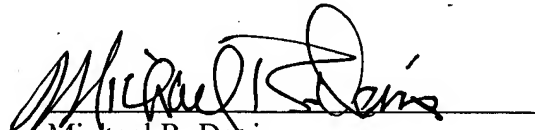
Action on the merits is requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-0975, with the EXCEPTION of deficiencies in fees for multiple dependent claims in new applications.

Respectfully submitted,

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